

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05  
IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /082 W  
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R 212050Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8967  
INFO AMCONSUL CALI  
AMCONSUL MEDELLIN  
AMCONSUL BARRANQUILLA

UNCLAS BOGOTA 12560

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETRD, EAIR, PFOR, CO  
SUBJ: GOC INVESTIGATION OF THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL

REF: BOGOTA 10026 AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, THE ARMED FORCES SPECIAL EXAMINING MAGISTRATE, VICE ADMIRAL EDUARDO MELENDEZ, HAS FINISHED HIS INVESTIGATION OF THE COLOMBIAN LOCKHEED SCANDAL AND HAS RECOMMENDED CRIMINAL CHARGES BE INITIATED AGAINST TWO FORMER COMMANDERS OF THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE, GENERAL FEDERICO RINCON PUENTES AND GENERAL JOSE RAMON CALDERON MOLANO, AND AGAINST COL. JUVAL GOMEZ, FORMER AIR FORCE DIRECTOR OF AERONAUTICS, AS WELL, A RECOMMENDATION WAS MADE TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE EXCHANGE CONTROL OFFICE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE FOREIGN EXCHANGE VIOLATIONS RELATED TO THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR IN WHICH THE FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE, SAMUEL HOYOS ARANGO, MAY BE INVOLVED.

2. ADMIRAL MELENDEZ ANNOUNCED HIS FINDINGS FURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE EXPLAINED THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE BASED ON CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN LOCAL LOCKHEED AGENTS  
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AND THE HOME OFFICE IN 1973 AND 1974, AND TESTIMONY RECEIVED BY THE INVESTIGATIVE BODY DURING THE TEN-MONTH INVESTIGATION.

3. THE "LOCKHEED LETTERS", WHCIH WERE FURNISHED TO THE MILITARY INVESTIGATIVE PANEL BY THE U.S., WERE A KEY ELEMENT IN THE INVESTIGATION. IN THESE LETTERS, EDWIN SCHWARTZ SOLER,

JOSE MARIA GUTIERREZ VILLA AND PATRICK YOUNG, ALL LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCKHEED, ALLEGEDLY WROTE THE HOME OFFICE REQUESTING \$298,000 TO ASSIST IN SELLING AIRPLANES TO THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE. THE ALLEGED BRIBES NOW UNDER INVESTIGATION DID NOT OCCUR IN 1967 WHEN THE THREE LOCKHEED HERCULES AIRPLANES WERE SOLD TO THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE. THE MONEY SUPPOSEDLY CHANGED HANDS IN 1974, WHEN REPAIRS AND SPARE PARTS WERE NEEDED FOR THESE PLANES.

4. DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THESE LETTERS WERE WRITTEN, GENERAL CALDERON MOLANO WAS THE COMMANDANT OF THE AIR FORCE AND GENERAL RINCON PUENTES WAS CHIEF OF AIR OPERATIONS.

5. IN THIS INVESTIGATION, THE SPECIAL EXAMINING MAGISTRATE ACTED AS A GRAND JURY AND MADE RECOMMENDATIONS ACCORDINGLY. A COPY OF THE MAGISTRATE'S REPORT WILL BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES WHICH WILL PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION. BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY INDIVIDUALS, PROSECUTION WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG THREE COURTS OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION AS FOLLOWS: GENERAL CALDERON M. WILL BE TRIED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE BECAUSE OF THIS FORMER POSITION AS COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE; GENERAL FEDERICO RINCON P. AND COLONEL JUVAL GOMEZ O. WILL BE TRIED BY A MILITARY CRIMINAL COURT, AND JOSE MARIA GUTIERREZ V. WILL BE TRIED BY THE CRIMINAL CIRCUIT COURT OF BOGOTA. SEPARATELY, POSSIBLE EXCHANGE CONTROL VIOLATIONS BY SAMUEL HOYOS A., EDWIN SCHWARZ, AND JOSE MARIA GUTIERREZ V. WILL BE INVESTIGATED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE EXCHANGE CONTROL OFFICE.

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6. INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES WERE CLEARED BY THE MAGISTRATE'S INVESTIGATIONS INCLUDE: RETIRED GENERAL ARMANDO URREGO BERNAL (ALSO EX-COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE,) RETIRED EFRAIN DIAZ VALDERRAMA AND PATRICK YOUNG.

SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, INVESTIGATIONS, AIRCRAFT SALES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOC INVESTIGATION OF THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL  
**TAGS:** ETRD, EAIR, PFOR, CO, LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORP, (CHAVEZ, FRANCISCO), (MELENDEZ, EDUARDO)  
**To:** STATE  
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